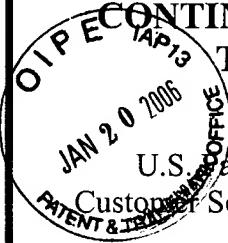


**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION  
TRANSMITTAL**



Address to:  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
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Application Number	09/924,054
Filing Date	August 8, 2001
First Named Inventor	Hiroyuki SAITO
Art Unit	2664
Examiner Name	John Shew
Attorney Docket Number	0050-0094

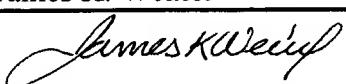
This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114 (Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).)
  - a.  Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
    - i.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
    - ii.  Other Amendment After Final filed December 23, 2005
  - b.  Enclosed
    - i.  Amendment/Reply      iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
    - ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)      iv.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. Miscellaneous
  - a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
  - b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. Fees
  - a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_
    - i.  RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
    - ii.  Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
    - iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - b.  Check in the amount of \$ 790.00 enclosed
  - c.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

**CUSTOMER NUMBER: 44987**

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print / Type)	James K. Weixel	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	44,399
Signature			
	Date	January 20, 2006	

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print / Type)	
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	Date